

# CATS Newsletter

The Capital Area  
Timex/Sinclair Users  
Group

Vol. 12 No. 5-6  
Sept- Oct 1994



## MEETING MINUTES - JULY

The meeting was called to a semblance of order at 2:00 by Manny Quintero. Attending were Ruth Feigley, Duane Parker, Barry Washington, Herb Schaaf, Cliff Watson and Tom Robbins. Minutes of the previous meeting were read by Duane Parker and approved by acclamation.

Treasurers report by Barry Washington - we are still solvent. Barry reported that our funds were now safely ensconced in a new home, the Crestar bank.

### Old Buisness:

The picnic at the Digg's may be held in October - Bob will be out of town in September - date to be announced.

For the next meeting, we will be experimenting with trying to create a newsletter by a combination of cut and paste and using networked QL's. Hopefully, we all will bring articles, QL's and network cables to the meeting.

A possible future meeting topic of "SINCLAIR EMULATORS" was proposed.

### New Buisness:

Cliff will be checking on storage facilities at the Crofton Library, a possible meeting site for our merry band.

### Demonstration and Tutorial:

Ruth Feigley demonstrated the use of Abacus in managing and tracking the financial wheeling and dealing of her investment club.

## MINUTES - AUGUST

### Old Business:

Bob Diggs announced that the CATS picnic will be held on Sept. 17th, 1994 at his bayside home in Northeast. All members are invited to attend, anytime after noon. Bring food and drink.

Cliff Watson checked on the Crofton Library meeting space. No storage space is available at that location. It was agreed that this fact makes the New Carrollton library a more desirable location.

### New Business:

Meeting room needs were discussed. The PG County library system must be contacted for meeting reservations in November, probably on the first Monday. Joe Miller is requested to check on the reservation schedule and cost.

At the meeting Michael J. Milton, Esq. presented CATS with two 2068-computers, two 2040 printers, one Timex 1000, a 2050-modem, many tapes, two cartridges, and several publications. Hearty thanks were offered to Mr. Milton. The use to be made of these items will be discussed at the next meeting, Sept. 10th.

The treasurer reported that there are adequate funds in our account, expenditures amounted to \$43.48 in the past month, two renewals produced \$25 in receipts.

The newsletter activity revealed that we need more articles or other items to be published. "We do not understand how Mark puts up with it!"

In September, Tom Robbins will discuss the new Menu-Driven Unzip program ("Unzip\_bas"). Herb Schaaf will also tell "All I have learned about QEM Version 4.0".

*Tom Robbins*

*D.P.*

## NEWS FROM THE INTERNET

(downloaded by Tom Robbins)

A QL "FAQ" (information sheet) was recently posted to the comp.sys.sinclair newsgroup on the Internet. The table of contents is reproduced below and the full text is available on disk in the CATS 'hardware box' at our meeting room. The FAQ runs to over 50 pages.

- 0 Introduction to the FAQ
- 0.0 Preface and forward
- 0.1 NEWS \*\*\* NEWS \*\*\* NEWS
- 0.2 Contents
- 0.3 Warranty information
- 0.4 How to submit new material to the FAQ
- 0.5 Miscellaneous information
- 0.6 What's the Sinclair QL
- 0.7 Facts about the Sinclair QL
- 1 QL, QL Clones Hardware
  - 1.1 QL
    - 1.1.1 The Motorola MC 68008 CPU
    - 1.1.2 The Intel 8049 IPC (or 8749)
    - 1.1.3 ZX8301 (Peripheral Control)
    - 1.1.4 ZX8302 (Peripheral Chip)
    - 1.1.5 HAL/GAL 16L8
    - 1.1.6 Microdrives
    - 1.1.7 Power supply
    - 1.1.8 Build Standards, Differences
  - 1.2 Sandy Q-XT 640
  - 1.3 CST Thor PC (later Thor 1)
  - 1.4 Sandy 68000 PC (Futura, formerly QLT; never appeared)
  - 1.5 CST Thor 20, 21
  - 1.6 CST Thor XVI
  - 1.7 Futura Data Centre QL emulator board for the Atari ST
  - 1.8 Miracle Systems Gold Card
  - 1.9 ICL One Per Desk (also Merlin Tonto or Computerphone)
  - 1.10 Merz QVME Card
  - 1.11 Miracle Systems QXL Card
  - 1.12 Miracle Systems Super Gold Card
- 2 QL Device Operating System (QDOS) and Compatibles
  - 2.1 QDOS
  - 2.2 Minerva
  - 2.3 Argos
  - 2.4 SMSQ
  - 2.5 QDOS enhancements
    - 2.5.1 SuperToolkit II

2.5 2 Pointers, Menus, Hotkeys and Things

2.6 SMS2

3 Programs for the QL / Compatibles

3.1 Emulators of other systems on the QL

3.1.1 PC Conqueror

3.1.2 The Solution

3.1.3 CP Mulator

3.1.4 Success

\*3.1.5 Spectrum emulators ZM/HT etc

3.2 Psion Quartet

3.2.1 Quill Import/Export

4 dealers, clubs, magazines, ftp sites, Internet

4.1 Hardware dealers

4.2 Services

4.3 Software dealers

4.4 Club addresses

4.5 Magazines

4.6 QL Internet Resources

4.6.1 ftp sites

4.6.2 UseNet News

## FDQ -Public Domain QL Software

by Tom Robbins

In a recent CATS newsletter, Herb Schaaf described the use of the "Unzip" program to decompress files. As you can see from his write up, the program is somewhat cumbersome to use - lots of command line switches and finicky syntax. There is an elegant and easy to use front end for unzipping files in the public domain by Richard Kettlewell called Zipper<sub>bas</sub>. Highly recommended if you want to save yourself a lot of aggravation. NB - needs Toolkit 2 to run.

There is a new release of the Psion XCHANGE program - Version 4.0 now available. It has the same features as the earlier releases, but appears to run somewhat faster.

## RECENT LIBRARY LISTINGS FOR THE QL ON COMPUSEVE

(downloaded by Duane Parker)

The following list shows recent files for the QL that are in the "CLUB FORUM" on CompuServe. These are all public domain material. Some of them are programs, some are lists of messages from communication nets or bulletin boards, or manuals for certain programs. The files may be downloaded from CompuServe.

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QLIBM.ZIP/Bin Bytes: 10240,  
Count: 1, 27-Jul-94

Title : Modified QLiberator runtimes  
v3.36

Modified QLiberator runtimes (v3.36).  
Fixes ERNUM bug.

-----  
ACPENG.TXT/Text Bytes: 20763,  
Count: 2, 27-Jul-94

Title : ACP\_HELP (english)

English translation of the help file for  
ACP - Archiver Control Panel.

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ACP2.LZH/Bin Bytes: 31232,  
Count: 2, 27-Jul-94

Title : Archiver Control Panel

A pointer driven front end for  
arc/zip/zoo/lhq/lha archivers. Uses menu  
extensions if you have them, but not  
required. Note that you must have the  
archiver executables, this program does  
not contain them. It also has a  
French help file but an English  
translation of it is available here in  
the library.

FIDO.ZIP/Bin Bytes: 50176,  
Count: 7, 13-Jul-94

Title : QL FIDOnet conference June  
28-July 12, 1994  
A ZIP of QL FIDOnet conferences from  
June 28 to July 12, 1994, logged from  
QBBS bulletin board in the UK. Includes  
INTQL, Minerva, and QUANTA.

-----  
MAIL.ZIP/Bin Bytes: 35200,  
Count: 9, 17-Jan-94 (24-May-94)

Title : MAIL  
Update of my mailing list program for  
Archive. Zipped with zip3

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QFAX15.ZIP/Rle Bytes: 224000,  
Count: 4, 19-Apr-94

Title : Qfax v 1.5 Super Gold Card  
compatible  
Keywords: QFAX UPDATE SUPER GOLD CARD

QFAX v 1.5 Part 1 and Part 2. Compiled  
with a SuperGoldCard  
compatible version of C68

-----  
XPR301.ZIP/Bin Bytes: 123520,  
Count: 6, 14-Apr-94

Title : XPR libraries v 3.01  
Key XPR QTPI QEM SUPER GOLD CARD

XPR file transfer libraries v 3.01.  
Super Gold Card

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QTP131.ZIP/Bin Bytes: 76032,  
Count: 6, 14-Apr-94

Title : QTPI v. 1.31 update and new  
documentation

QTPI v 1.31; also includes updated  
documentation (QT

## CATS PICNIC

Bob Diggs announced the date of the  
annual CATS picnic to be held at his  
place in Hance's Point Maryland will be  
on Saturday September 17th, 1994.

**THE CAPITAL AREA TIMEX/  
SINCLAIR USERS GROUP** is a not-for-profit group serving the interests of those who own, use, or are interested in the Timex/Sinclair family of computers.

### Officers:

Chairman	Monthly position
Vice-Chairman	Monthly position
Recording Secretary	Monthly position
Corresponding Secretary	Joe Miller
Treasurer	Barry Washington
Newsletter Editor	Mark Fisher
	(301) 589-7407
	(301) 588-0579 BBS

### Meetings

Monthly meetings are held from 12:00 M to 4:30 PM on the second Saturday of each month at the New Carrollton Library.

### Newsletter

User Group memberships cost \$10.00 per year, are good for 12 months and include all privileges (access to software libraries, group buys, etc.).

### Mail dues to:

LeBaron (Barry) Washington  
7044 Cindy Lane  
Annandale VA 22003

### Networks

Timex SIG on Compuserve: Wednesday night 10:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (GO CLUB)

CATS BBS: (301) 588-0579, 8-N-1, 300/1200/2400 baud. Message base and files for members, 24 hours a day, no time limits.

CATS Newsletter  
7044 Cindy Lane  
Annandale VA 22003

## FIRST CLASS MAIL



The next meeting of CATS will be held on: September 10, 1994  
12:00 M Hardware workshop  
2:00 PM General meeting

At: New Carrollton Public Library

If you are not a member of CATS, this is the only issue you will receive.